



## 58TH PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

### INAUGURAL LUNCHEON PAINTING

#### INAUGURAL LUNCHEON

After the newly elected President has taken the oath of office and delivered his Inaugural address, Chairman Blunt and the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC) host a traditional inaugural luncheon in Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol.

Since 1953, the JCCIC has organized a luncheon celebration for the President, Vice President and their spouses, Senate and House leaders, the JCCIC members and other invited guests. The luncheon program includes speeches, gift presentations from the JCCIC and toasts to the new administration. As JCCIC Chairman, Blunt selects a work of art to be displayed during the luncheon.

#### SAINT LOUIS ART MUSEUM

The Saint Louis Art Museum, founded in 1879, collects, presents, interprets and conserves works of art of the highest quality across time and cultures; educates, inspires discovery and elevates the human spirit; and preserves a legacy of artistic achievement for the people of St. Louis and the world. The main section of the Museum, the Beaux Arts-style “Main Building,” was designed for the 1904 World’s Fair and the East Building expansion opened in June 2013.



*Verdict of the People*



*Stump Speaking*



*County Election*

#### VERDICT OF THE PEOPLE

*Verdict of the People* (1854-55) is one of three works by George Caleb Bingham that comprise the *Election Series*. Along with *Stump Speaking* and *County Election*, the three paintings present the course of democratic elections. Bingham wanted to visually record the cultural tensions at play in American democracy in the 1850s.

After Election Day, it often took days to compile the votes. The results were publicly announced at the courthouse, and crowds gathered to hear “the verdict of the people.” This painting depicts a chaotic street scene just as a clerk calls out the election results.

Bingham’s electorate is one of inclusiveness.

Everyone is here—the well-to-do farmers, laborers, merchants, westerners, kids, politicians, immigrants, veterans, women and African-Americans. They are elated, dejected, confounded, argumentative, jovial and intensely serious.

#### GEORGE CALEB BINGHAM

George Caleb Bingham was born in Virginia in 1811, but raised in Franklin, Missouri. By 1838, he had made a name for himself in St. Louis by painting portraits and American life in the frontier lands along the Missouri River.

Using his personal experience as a Missouri legislator as inspiration, Bingham painted the *Election Series* before he traveled to Europe in 1856. He died in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1879.

#### THE BINGHAM COLLECTION

The George Caleb Bingham Election Series paintings were gifted to the Saint Louis Art Museum in 2010 from Bank of America. The Museum has the largest collection of paintings by the artist, and is a repository of his drawings owned by the Bingham Trust.

*Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies*